

WANDERERS  
MAKE IT 5  
AWAY WINS

A 16th minute goal by Howard Kettleborough, following a slip by former Blues captain John Delaney, gave Wycombe Wanderers three more points from Wednesday's Rothmans Isthmian League encounter at Hayes.

This win also continues Wanderers' amazing run of success away from home in Division One this term. Apart from that heavy 3-0 defeat at Hendon they have won every away game, five in all, and coupled with their improved form at home, they are nicely placed at the moment.

Manager Ted Powell fielded the same 11 for about the first time this season, keeping the team that beat Walthamstow 4-0 on Saturday. This seems to be his best line-up and there's not much doubt that Howard Kettleborough has made the world of difference to the front three. In midfield John Priestley seems to improve with every game while the defence, although shaky at times, is strong enough to hold most opponents.

Whether Wycombe can find the necessary consistency needed to make a championship challenge remains to be seen. With results being turned upside down recently it suggests that few matches will be easy in Division One this season

## By STUART EARP Hayes 0, Wycombe Wanderers 1

and one thing the Blues must improve is their finishing.

They had enough chances to have sewn this match up long before the final whistle at Church Road but they had to withstand considerable pressure in the last quarter to come away with three points. Another goal earlier would have saved themselves a good deal of worry. It must be said that the luck wasn't with them for they hit the woodwork twice in the game.

But Wycombe were good value for this win which avenged their 1-0 home defeat earlier in the season.

Wanderers looked confident from the start and played the ball around well. Midfield established an early authority and after Keith Morris had wasted Hayes' first chance, the visitors went ahead in the 16th minute.

### CONSTRUCTIVE

Paul Birdseye's throw-in found Ian Pearson who crossed to the near post. Delaney, Wycombe's skipper last season, tried to get the ball under control but mistimed his header which fell nicely for Kettleborough to sweep home from close range. It was a rare mistake by the big centre half who had an unhappy game after pulling a thigh muscle early on. He was eventually substituted and his injury had a marked effect on the home

defence in which another ex-Wanderer, Paul Griffiths, again impressed.

Wycombe continued to look the more constructive side and Priestley, who packs a fair shot from 20 yards, almost surprised Ian Bath with a drive in the 25th minute. A better chance fell to Tony Horsemans a minute later, however. Mick Holifield sprinted through into the Hayes penalty area and instead of trying for goal, slipped the ball inside to Horsemans. But 'Bodger' took too long in lining up the shot and Hayes were able to clear.

By using the full width of the pitch Wanderers stretched Hayes at the back and their accurate passing created quite a few problems as they built their attacks well from defence.

Hayes might well have got back into the game in the 33rd minute when John Maskell dropped Alan Carrington's cross but the 'keeper was quick to recover and dived bravely at the feet of Cyril Regis.

Thirty seconds later Wanderers were out of luck when Holifield produced a flash of brilliance. He tried his luck from almost 30 yards out with a dipping drive that completely beat Bath but struck the crossbar. Just before half time Carrington replied with a similar effort for Hayes but this one flew just past a post.

Wanderers must have been pleased with their work at half time but lost the initiative in the second half and allowed Hayes to come at them. Once again they were too often second to the ball and the home side gave them a warning after only four

minutes of the half. A cross by Carrington to the far post was met by Pete Lavers who hit the crossbar with his header.

Howard Kennedy fought hard to disrupt Hayes in midfield but the Blues didn't help their cause by becoming overelaborate in the attacks. Fortunately Hayes had little to offer up front apart from the dangerous Regis but the West Indian was too erratic and his shooting well off target.

Maskell showed a lovely side-step in the 65th minute which brought cheers from the Wycombe supporters. 'Mask' gathered Carrington's lob on the goal-line and spotted Lavers racing in to body-check. But the 'keeper neatly stepped out of the way and sent the Hayes forward diving into the back of the net.

With Delaney struggling, Wycombe began to look more dangerous in the second half and the woodwork saved Hayes a second time following a corner. The ball was cleared to Priestley who found Kettleborough on the left. His cross looped over the goalkeeper and Pearson headed for goal and watched the ball bounce onto the top of the crossbar.

Soon afterwards Priestley, Horsemans and Pearson combined in a first time move to win another corner and then Priestley almost grabbed the important second goal in the 72nd minute. He fired in a low shot on the left foot but Bath got down to save well one handed.

Delaney, who played with a strapped thigh in the second half, eventually limped off with 11 minutes to go, and was replaced by another former Wycombe

favourite Geoff Anthony. Kenny Kent took over at centre back with Barrie Davies moving to left back.

There were a couple of anxious moments for the Blues in those closing minutes particularly in the 86th when Holifield brought down Regis dangerously close to the penalty area. After a long delay in getting the Wycombe wall back 10 yards, Danny Clapton's free-kick was blocked.

But Wanderers withstood the pressure including a 90th minute corner to clinch the victory they deserved.

**HAYES:** I. Bath; A. Carrington, P. Griffiths, J. Delaney (sub G. Anthony 79 mins), K. Kent, D. Clapton, B. Davies, R. Wiles; C. Regis, P. Lavers, K. Morris.

**WYCOMBE:** J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, R. Davies; H. Kennedy, J. Priestley, M. Holifield; A. Horsemans, H. Kettleborough, I. Pearson.

**Referee:** G. Prevatt.  
**Half-time:** 1-0. **Goalscorer,** Wycombe — Kettleborough (16).

### ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION ONE (Up to and inc. 5/10/76)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hitchin	13	9	2	3	119	9	30
Dagenham	14	9	2	3	28	16	29
Wycombe	14	9	1	4	25	15	28
L'stone	13	7	2	4	22	15	23
L'head	13	7	1	5	19	11	22
Tooting	13	6	3	4	27	25	21
Sutton	13	5	3	4	21	20	19
Woking	12	5	3	4	18	13	18
Slough	11	5	3	3	12	9	17
Bishops	13	5	2	6	21	19	17
Enfield	10	4	4	2	10	10	16
Hendon	14	5	1	8	19	22	16
Croydon	10	4	3	3	12	11	15
Southall	12	4	3	5	19	20	15
Staines	12	4	3	5	12	13	15
Hayes	12	4	2	6	11	15	14
W'stow	13	4	2	7	15	21	14
Dulwich	10	3	4	5	14	17	13
Barking	12	4	1	7	13	20	13
Tilbury	10	3	2	5	6	11	11
Kings	12	2	3	7	10	21	9
Ilford	14	1	2	10	4	24	5